

**BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
STATE OF GEORGIA**

In the matter of:

LESTER JACKSON

Respondent.

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2005-0029

CONSENT ORDER

Following a preliminary hearing on June 17, 2005, the Commission found reasonable grounds to believe that Lester Jackson (hereinafter "Respondent") violated the Ethics in Government Act, and this case was set down for an Administrative Procedure Act hearing.

Now prior to an Administrative Procedure Act hearing, the State Ethics Commission and the Respondent agree and consent to the following terms to resolve the pending case by Consent Order.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1.

The Respondent is the Representative for Georgia House of Representatives District 161 and was a candidate for this office or held this office at all times relevant to the matters asserted herein.

2.

The Respondent was required to file an original Campaign Contribution Disclosure Report with the Secretary of State and to file a copy of the Report with the

Chatham County Election Superintendent for the period ending October 25, 2002. The Respondent failed to timely file these reports.

3.

The Respondent was required to file an original Campaign Contribution Disclosure Report with the Secretary of State and to file a copy of the Report with the Chatham County Election Superintendent for the period ending June 30, 2003. The Respondent failed to timely file these reports.

4.

The Respondent was required to file an original Campaign Contribution Disclosure Report with the Secretary of State and to file a copy of the Report with the Chatham County Election Superintendent for the period ending June 30, 2004. The Respondent failed to timely file these reports.

5.

The Respondent was required to file an original Campaign Contribution Disclosure Report with the Secretary of State and to file a copy of the Report with the Chatham County Election Superintendent for the period ending September 30, 2004. The Respondent failed to timely file these reports.

6.

The Respondent was required to file an original Campaign Contribution Disclosure Report with the Secretary of State and to file a copy of the Report with the Chatham County Election Superintendent for the period ending October 30, 2004. The Respondent failed to timely file these reports.

7.

The Respondent was required to file an original Campaign Contribution Disclosure Report with the Secretary of State and to file a copy of the Report with the Chatham County Election Superintendent for the period ending December 31, 2004. The Respondent failed to timely file these reports.

8.

The Respondent raised or spent at least \$10,000.00 on his campaign in 2004, triggering the requirement that he electronically file his 2004 Campaign Contribution Disclosure Reports with the Secretary of State.

9.

The Respondent was required to electronically file his Campaign Contribution Disclosure Report for the period ending June 30, 2004 with the Secretary of State. The Respondent failed to timely file this report.

10.

The Respondent was required to electronically file his Campaign Contribution Disclosure Report for the period ending September 30, 2004 with the Secretary of State. The Respondent failed to timely file this report.

11.

The Respondent was required to electronically file his Campaign Contribution Disclosure Report for the period ending October 30, 2004 with the Secretary of State. The Respondent failed to timely file this report.

12.

The Respondent was required to electronically file his Campaign Contribution Disclosure Report for the period ending December 31, 2004 with the Secretary of State. The Respondent failed to timely file this report.

13.

The Respondent has previously paid the statutory late fees assessed for his failure to timely file reports for the periods ending October 25, 2002, June 30, 2003, June 30, 2004, September 30, 2004, October 30, 2004, and December 31, 2004.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

14.

“Candidates . . . shall file campaign contribution disclosure reports. . . [i]n each year in which the candidate qualifies to run for public office [o]n March 31, June 30, September 30, October 25, and December 31.” O.C.G.A. § 21-5-34(c)(2)(A).

15.

The Commission may impose a civil penalty not to exceed \$1,000.00 for each violation of the Ethics in Government Act. O.C.G.A. § 21-5-6(b)(14)(C)(i).

16.

The Respondent failed to timely file campaign disclosure reports for the periods ending October 25, 2002, June 30, 2003, June 30, 2004, September 30, 2004, October 30, 2004, and December 31, 2004.

17.

The Commission finds that the Respondent violated O.C.G.A. § 21-5-34 due to his failure to timely file the campaign disclosure reports at issue in this case.

18.

“[C]andidates seeking election to the General Assembly . . . shall use electronic means to file their campaign contribution disclosure reports . . . upon having raised or spent a minimum of \$10,000.00 in an election cycle.” O.C.G.A. § 21-5-34.1(b).

19.

The Commission may impose a civil penalty not to exceed \$1,000.00 for each violation of the Ethics in Government Act. O.C.G.A. § 21-5-6(b)(14)(C)(i).

20.

The Respondent failed to timely electronically file his campaign disclosure reports for the periods ending June 30, 2004, September 30, 2004, October 30, 2004, and December 31, 2004.

21.

The Commission finds that the Respondent violated O.C.G.A. § 21-5-34.1 due to his failure to timely file the campaign disclosure reports at issue in this case.

THEREFORE, the Commission and the Respondent agree and consent:

- 1) that the Respondent committed six violations of the Ethics in Government Act
by failing to timely file campaign contribution disclosure reports for the

periods ending October 25, 2002, June 30, 2003, June 30, 2004, September 30, 2004, October 30, 2004, and December 31, 2004;

- 2) that the Respondent committed four violations of the Ethics in Government Act by failing to timely electronically file campaign contribution disclosure reports for the periods ending June 30, 2004, September 30, 2004, October 30, 2004, and December 31, 2004;
- 3) that the Respondent will cease and desist from any and all violations of the Ethics in Government Act and to comply with all the provisions thereof; and
- 4) that the Respondent will pay a civil penalty of \$100.00 per report not properly filed, a total of a \$1,000.00 civil penalty, from personal funds and not from campaign funds or government funds for the failure to timely file Disclosure Reports, within 30 days of the date this order is signed by the Commission.

By signing this order, the Respondent waives any right to an appeal pursuant to the procedures outlined in O.C.G.A. § 50-13-19.

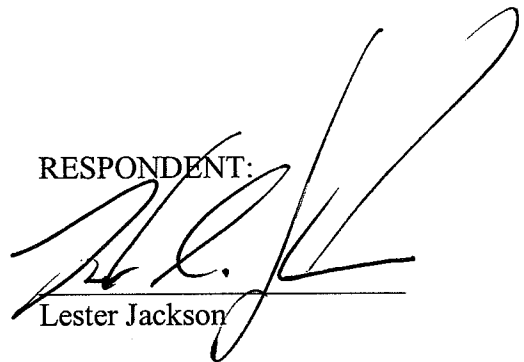
Signature of Lester Jackson attested to on
this 14 day of Aug, 2006.

By: 

Notary

LEROY BENTON
NOTARY PUBLIC, CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES 7/13/09

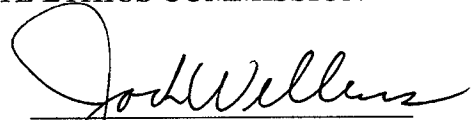
RESPONDENT:


Lester Jackson

SO ORDERED, this 24 day of August, 2006.

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

BY:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jack Williams", written over a horizontal line.

JACK WILLIAMS

Chairman

State Ethics Commission